

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06378 01 OF 02 071933Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10
EB-08 NSC-05 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /077 W
-----044124 072129Z /64 S

R 071852Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7454
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06378

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, ECON, SF, GW
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA: FRG
VIEWS SINCE MARCH MEETING IN WASHINGTON

REFS: A) STATE 75820; B) STATE 87492
1. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE FRG
PARTICIPANTS DURING THE MARCH 16-17 FIVE POWER TALKS
ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA REFLECT THE
SAME ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS WE HEAR FROM OFFICIAL
GERMANS IN BONN. THE FRG IS WILLING TO PRESSURE
SOUTH AFRICA ON ITS APARTHEID POLICIES, BUT IS
CONSTRAINED BY LIMITS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO
RESTRAIN TRADE AND BY THE CONVICTION -- HELD BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 06378 01 OF 02 071933Z

GENSCHER AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE -- THAT THE WEST
MUST NOT PUSH SO HARD AS TO ALIENATE SOUTH AFRICA AT
A TIME WHEN THE LATTER'S COOPERATION IS VITAL TO
THE SUCCESS OF THE NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA INITIATIVES.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE FRG PARTICIPANTS THEIR

REACTIONS TO THE MEETING SINCE THEIR RETURN. IN GENERAL, THEY FOUND THE MEETING BENEFICIAL, PRIMARILY FOR THE CLARIFICATIONS OFFERED BY THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THEY APPRECIATED THE EXPLANATION OF US VIEWS, BUT NOTED THAT A DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS THE US WAS CONSIDERING VIS-A-VIS SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE MADE IT EVEN MORE HELPFUL.

3. OUR CONTACTS TELL US THEY PERCEIVED A DIFFERENCE IN PERSPECTIVES ON SANCTIONS AMONG THE CANADIANS AND THE US ON ONE SIDE, THE FRENCH ON ANOTHER, AND THE FRG AND UK ON STILL ANOTHER. CANADA, WITH THE LEAST TO LOSE ECONOMICALLY, WAS PERCEIVED AS THE MOST AGGRESSIVE. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THE US RECOGNIZES THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COSTS OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, BUT LIKE CANADA WAS MORE PRONE TO CONSIDER SANCTIONS THAN THE OTHERS.

4. FRANCE IMPRESSED THE OTHERS AS HAVING ONLY ONE MAJOR CONCERN: THE FUTURE OF ITS NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IF THAT COOPERATION WERE BLOCKED, OUR CONTACTS PREDICTED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT RESIST VERY STRONGLY THOSE PRESSURES PUSHING FOR TOTAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE INTERIM, FRANCE WAS CAPITALIZING ON THE OTHER'S RETICENCE IN TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 06378 01 OF 02 071933Z

HAVE EXPANDED THE FLOOR SPACE OF THEIR EXHIBITION AT THE JOHANNESBURG TRADE SHOW BY A FACTOR OF 5 OR 6, WHILE THE FRG HAS EXPERIENCED A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS.

5. IN TERMS PARALLELING THOSE REPORTED REFTEL A, OUR SOURCES HAVE REITERATED THE FACT THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD WEIGH MOST HEAVILY ON THE FRG AND THE UK, SINCE A MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THEIR TOTAL TRADE WAS COMMITTED TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE FRG SAYS IT HAS DONE WHAT IT CAN TO LIMIT ITS TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. AS EXPLAINED BY THE FRG PARTICIPANTS DURING THE TALKS, EXPORT GUARANTEES ARE LIMITED TO FIVE YEARS AND DM 50 MILLION PER PROJECT AND APPLICANTS FOR ANY GUARANTEES MUST ADHERE TO THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN BONN, THE LARGE GERMAN FIRMS ARE ABIDING BY THE CODE FAIRLY WELL.

6. WHILE THERE IS NO INTENTION TO USE IT AT PRESENT, OUR CONTACTS TELL US IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DEVELOPED A PACKAGE OF CONTINGENCY MEASURES TO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06378 02 OF 02 071933Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10
EB-08 NSC-05 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /077 W
-----044135 072128Z /64

R 071852Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7455
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06378

DEMONSTRATE FRG DISPLEASURE WITH THE SAG'S POLICIES.
AMONG THESE MEASURES WOULD BE THE IMPOSITION OF A
VISA REQUIREMENT ON SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS TRAVELING
TO THE FRG. (AT PRESENT A GERMAN NEEDS A VISA TO
TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA, BUT SOUTH AFRICANS NEED NONE
TO VISIT THE FRG AS TOURISTS FOR LESS THAN 90 DAYS.)
OUR CONTACT DID NOT ELABORATE ON OTHER PARTS OF THE
PACKAGE, BUT WE HOPE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM AS THE
OPPORTUNITY ARISES. THESE POSSIBLE MEASURES ARE BEING
HELD IN RESERVE PENDING SOME PROVOCATION BY SOUTH
AFRICA, SUCH AS ARREST OF JOURNALISTS, REFUSAL OF
VISAS TO PROMINENT GERMANS, ETC.

7. WHEN ASKED ABOUT GERMAN RECEPTIVITY TO ANOTHER
SESSION OF THE FIVE POWER TALKS, OUR SOURCE CITED
GENSCHER'S EXPRESSED FEELINGS ON THE IMPACT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 06378 02 OF 02 071933Z

SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA (SEE PARA 5, REFTEL B). HE
NOTED THAT THE FRG HAS STILL NOT COMPLETED ITS
EVALUATION OF THE MARCH MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, THE
FRG WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A
NEW ROUND, AS LONG AS THE GROUND-RULES OF THE FIRST
STILL APPLIED, I.E. THAT ANY TALKS WERE PURELY
EXPLORATORY.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN06378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780151-0382
Format: TEL
From: BONN USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780482/aaaacrwl.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfa9d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 75820, 78 STATE 87492
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3046176
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA: FRG VIEWS SINCE MARCH MEETING IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, ECON, SF, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfa9d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014